

Copy

Boston,
March 30, 1868.

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Dear friend Love;

Let me apologize
for not answering your kind
letter sooner, while returning my
thanks for the same.

Believing the Supreme Court
of Massachusetts to have been most
unjustly arraigned in the matter
of the Jackson legacy by Mr.
Phillips, and knowing that his
unfounded accusations in the
Standard against myself, and
my long-tried co-workers, Mr.
Nay and Mr. Quincy, were utterly
baseless, while many were being
muddled and alienated by them,
I felt that I was bound by every
consideration of justice to all parties
concerned, to make the reply ^{I did} in the

Standard, painful as was the task. In writing that reply, I endeavored to guard myself against any undue excitement of mind, while treating the subject with that plainness and fidelity which the truth will always justify, and sometimes demands. I trust there can be nothing found in it of a "masonic spirit," though it necessarily has a personal application. I thank you for your suggestion in regard to the four last lines in Specification No. 7; but my reason for inserting them was, that they were both deserved and needed as a rebuke of the self-inflation and assumption over "old associates" of anti-slavery fidelity, which have characterized the writings and speeches of Mr. Phillips for the last three years. When you say, "Lovers

true it may be, it is not Garrison-like, "I must dissent from your friendly judgment; because I am never given to circumlocution, and never hesitate to "call a spade a spade". It was a much more serious matter to deny, in the most explicit manner, each one and all of the ten allegations made by Mr. Phillips, as utterly untrue, than to allude to his "reef-inflation" &c; but I could not do otherwise.

I beg you, my dear friend, to make the case your own, and consider yourself publicly accused, by one of commanding influence, of having betrayed a sacred trust, and appealed to a "pro-slavery Court" to enable you to carry out your base designs! It ceases to be an honest difference of judgment, you perceive, in regard to the best

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use of the trust, but strikes at personal integrity, and implies outrageous apostasy. Read Mr. Phillips' allegations carefully over again, and say whether, if they are to be believed, Mr. May, Mr. Quincy and myself do not deserve to be despised and condemned by all upright souls; or whether, if they are false, the accuser does not deserve to be strongly rebuked for his conduct.

At this hour, the freedmen of the South are, by the Reconstruction Act of Congress, recognized American citizens, with full political enfranchisement, and actively engaged in making State Constitutions, enacting laws, revising statute books, &c., &c. But, of course, as a class, their ignorance is appalling; and their speedy and

general enlightenment, through the common school system, is of primary and paramount importance to enable them to maintain the rights conceded to them, and intelligently to discharge the important duties devolving upon them.

The Court orders Mr. Jackson's legacy to be expended for this noble and indispensable object. Mr. Phillips pronounces it a gross perversion of the fund! Where is his fairness or good sense? Was there ever a more preposterous charge, or a more absurd outcry?

At a meeting of the Trustees, on Friday, he declared his purpose to disregard the decision of the Court, and to refuse to pay over one dollar of the legacy to the treasury of the Freedmen's Commission! Through his controlling influence, the money

lies idle, while millions at the South are famishing for instruction, and groping in thick darkness.

I do not expect to be in New York in May, but may send you a letter for the Peace anniversary.

Very truly yours,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison